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The Jugoslavs of Cleveland

With a Brief Sketch of their Historical
and Political Backgrounds

By

ELEANOR E. LEDBETTER



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Under the Direction of the
Cleveland Americanization Committee
Mayor's Advisory War Committee

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Foreword

THE dissolution of the ancient realm of the Hapsburgs is giving to the American people a bit of long neglected instruction in European nationalism. With the breaking of the bonds of dynastic rule there have arisen several nations rich in historical traditions and full of significant influence in the formation of a new Europe. The Czecho-Slovaks were the first to arrest our attention; the Jugoslavs have become equally famed. Both groups are very largely represented in the foreign born population of the United States, but few of us distinguished them from the other races of Eastern Europe. The surprising lack of knowledge among Americans of the peoples who have sought homes in this country may be the chief reason why assimilation has been so long delayed. When sympathy and understanding were not to be found among Americans the newcomers sought it among their own kind. Hence, "foreign colonies" and the widely heralded failure of the melting pot.

The Cleveland Americanization Committee deems the dissemination among the native born of accurate information concerning the foreign groups one of the first steps in Americanization. In working out the process of making a new nation out of many diverse groups the intelligent sympathy of Americans is needed first of all. Before we can teach we must understand. To the end that this understanding may be based upon accurate and accessible information the Americanization Committee has undertaken the preparation of a number of studies of the national groups residing in Cleveland. The first of these dealt with the Slovaks; the one presented herein with the Jugoslavs. The cordial reception accorded the first of them justifies a belief that this series may be a real contribution in the interpretation of the foreign born to Americans.

RAYMOND MOLEY,
Chairman.



Jugoslav Young Men at Camp Sherman

The Jugoslavs

ONE of the real benefits which the people of America are deriving from the Great War is an increased interest in world politics. Isolated by our geographical position, we have hitherto been provincial in the extreme, and our international relations have not been intimate enough to cause us to realize the depths of our ignorance.

Now that Fate has forced us into a place where we must take note of European politics, we are adding to our stores of knowledge by leaps and bounds. Knowledge produces sympathy, and we are fast losing the smug complacency with which we regarded ourselves as the original patrons of liberty. We are learning that there are in Europe many peoples who for centuries have struggled for liberty, whose struggles have been infinitely greater in proportion to their numbers, and to the odds against them, than ours was, and have lasted for centuries instead of years. We have not known of them before for the tragic reason that they have never been successful.

Hapsburg and Hohenzollern stand for political despotism, and only since the war opened our eyes have we begun to realize how unhappy has been the lot of the freedom-wishing peoples who have been among the subjects of these tyrants.

"Gerrymander" is an American word, but the idea was old in Central Europe before this republic was founded. Austria systematically kept her subject races impotent by subdividing them so that they would be powerless. And then by Machiavellian methods which we are just beginning to appreciate, she secretly instigated jealousies and dissensions among those artificially created divisions.

The fiery furnace of the present conflict has melted away these artificial causes of dissension, and has brought the leaders of every race to a clear and unprejudiced view of the essentials of its own situation, and of its relations to its kindred, to its neighbors and to its masters.

Therefore we see two great coalitions formed in the Austro-Hungarian empire, the Czecho-Slovak in the north, and the Jugoslav in the south. (Jugo, pronounced you-go, means south.)

The Slav Race.

The Slav race is divided into two main divisions; the first, called the western division, includes Bohemians, Slovaks, and Poles. The eastern and southern division includes Russians, Ruthenians, Bulgarians, Serbians, Croats and Slovenians.

It is the last three who constitute the Jugoslavs, the Bulgarians having, through their Coburg monarch and his misplaced ambition, forfeited all Slavic fellowship.

The Serbians, the Croatians, and the Slovenians are racially the same people, but have long been divided into these three groups through the political conditions to which they have been subject.

The districts inhabited by them in Austria-Hungary alone, are split up into eleven provincial administrations, coming under thirteen legislative bodies. Railroad construction has not been permitted along the natural trade routes which would have facilitated intercommunication among the Jugoslavs. Instead, all railroad and road construction has been aimed at increasing their subjection to Austria and Hungary, creating an economic dependence as artificial and unnecessary as the political. Add to the disadvantages of these conditions, the denial of free speech and political representation, and one can easily see why these people have not hitherto been able to achieve concerted action.

Religion, too, has been a source of separation, the Serbians and Montenegrins having retained church traditions and practices as received from Byzantium, while the Slovenes and Croats came under the influence of Rome, and became Roman Catholic. This involves the secular differences incident to the use on the part of the Serbs of the Cyrillic alphabet and the eastern calendar, fourteen days behind the Roman. These are the only differences between the Serbs and Croats; the terms Serbo-Croat is often used to indicate their unity. The spoken language is identical for the two races. The written languages look different because of the different alphabets.

Political Conditions in Europe.

It has been the policy of the Austro-Hungarian government to foster every possible source of difference among these people in order to prevent any unity of action. For she has always known that their united strength would be too much for her. The attack upon Serbia which formed the pretext for the beginning of the war, had its motive in the increase of South Slav sympathy, which Austria feared would develop into a union of effort.

In America we are just learning the meaning and the possibilities of propaganda, but the whole world has been influenced by Austrian propaganda regarding her subject races and their brothers, who, as Austria's independent neighbors, have been objects of jealousy and fear. Serbia was hated, not so much for her own sake, as because of the Serbs within the monarchy, whose desire for liberty and political freedom was constantly stimulated by proximity to brother Serbs in a free state.

Even the quarrelsomeness of the Balkans, which the world at large has been inclined to accept as evidence of political unfitness, becomes a much less serious matter when one sees how much of it has been "made in Austria".

The truth of the matter is that the whole world owes an unrequitable debt to the Balkan Jugoslavs, who have been for thirteen centuries the outposts of Christian civilization.

The Jugoslavs the Bulwark of Christendom.

In the year 620, the Emperor Heraclius invited their settlement south of the Danube, to form a barrier between Byzantium and the rushing hordes of northern barbarians. After the fall of the Byzantine empire and the shifting of civilization's center to the north, their work remained still to protect civilization and the Christian religion, but now from the Turks, who were assailing it from the east.

From the surrender of Byzantium to the very present, the Yugoslav peoples have been the bulwark of Christendom, protecting it at all times; when not able to protect completely, still taking the first shock, and so breaking the force of the Turkish attacks upon central Europe. They have spent and been spent in the service of Christendom, not once only, but through the constant struggles of a thousand years. Until 1869 a large part of Croatia was organized as a "Military Frontier," its residents formed into military units, always on call for the protection of the border from the Turk. It was not until 1881 that this system was completely done away with, and Croatian men permitted the ordinary civil life of other men.

It is impossible in this brief sketch to outline the history of the various South Slav states, interesting as it would be. We can only indicate a few of the most striking events.

History.

The Slovenes were the first to develop an independent state, the heart of which was in the present province of Carinthia. Conquered by Charlemagne in 778, they were never again able to establish themselves in a commanding position, and eventually came under the control of the House of Hapsburg. Napoleon's Kingdom of Illyria, uniting all the Slovene lands, and including with them some Croats and Serbs, was a true Yugoslav state, and fired national ambitions never since extinguished. Napoleon's astuteness led him to form this state as a check upon Austria, and a link between France and the East, a mission which is still open and still needed.

Croatia was among the nations of the earth during the ninth and tenth centuries, but brought oblivion upon herself when she elected Kolomon, King of Hungary, as King also of Croatia, in 1102. From that time, Croatia, while ostensibly an autonomous kingdom, was gradually reduced to practically the condition of a vassal state.

Bosnia and Serbia were great kingdoms during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and between them included most of the Balkan peninsula. The Turkish tide, however, rose higher and higher—grew ever fiercer and more overwhelming, until on June 28, 1389, it swept over the Serbs at the battle of Kossovo, and their kingdom was submerged. Resistance, however, was kept up for sixty years longer, until in 1459, Serbia ceased to exist. Bosnia and Herzegovina fell before the end of the century, and the Christian Slavs of the Balkans disappeared for three hundred years.

Turkish Subjection.

They disappeared, but they did not cease to exist. The national church was fortunately spared them, and furnished a nucleus for the preservation of the national life, while a line of national bards, called *guslari*, passed on in epic form the great events of the national history. It is said to be extraordinary how much national history is known by even the poorest and most illiterate of Serbian peasants, simply because he has so often heard these oral recitals.

The nobility, exposed to the greatest persecutions, became extinct, and the Serbians became a race of peasants. In the latter part of the 17th Century, some accepted the invitation of the Hungarian sovereign and moved across the border into Hungary. But his promises proved insincere, and the migrating Serbs found themselves tricked, and consideration given to them only when they were needed to defend the country against the Turks.



Cleveland Yugoslav Ladies in Native Costume, with Proposed Flag of Yugoslavia

Throughout this whole period of subjection to the Turks, the Serbian people maintained organized bands called "Hajduks," who kept up a constant guerilla warfare, and sometimes checked but oftener avenged the cruel persecutions visited upon the civil populations by the Turks. These hajduks became national heroes, and their exploits were celebrated and perpetuated by the Guslari.

Thus passed four hundred years. In the latter part of the seventeenth century, liberty awoke throughout the world. The success of the American and French Revolutions aroused the oppressed in every part of Europe, and the surge toward freedom was manifest in every part of the Yugoslav territory.

The Struggle for Freedom.

Serbia was the first to rise. In 1804, under Kara George, the founder of the present dynasty, she began the struggle for independence, which, through many adversities, has known no more tragic years than the last four.

The renaissance of the Slovenians and Croats was greatly promoted by Napoleon's recognition of their strategic importance which resulted in his creation of their territory into the "Illyrian Provinces." If his fall had been postponed, it seems probable that a strong Yugoslav state might have developed at this time. The Congress of Vienna put an end to this possibility, but it could not destroy the stimulated national consciousness. Literary and political revivals followed, and from that time to this, the Slovenians have maintained a constant political struggle in Austria, the Croats an equally bitter one in Hungary.

Montenegro, which had never been entirely conquered, secured complete emancipation from the Turk in 1830; Bosnia and Herzegovina, struggling continuously for fifty years, found their efforts frustrated by the Congress of Berlin, which ignored their claims to freedom, and simply gave them a change of masters. Between Turk and Austrian, they have found little to choose.

These are the historic backgrounds of the Yugoslav peoples. It is easy to see how attractive to them must have been the reports of political and economic freedom in America.



Slovenian Sokol

Emigration.

The first to make the great venture in any numbers were the Slovenians, who, in 1866, founded a farming colony in Brockway, Minn. Rev. J. J. Oman, pastor of St. Lawrence Slovenian Church, Cleveland, is a child of this colony. Other Slovenian groups followed to America, but the number was small until the late 80's, when the Slovenian tide began to set in, and Cleveland has ever since been an important center of Slovenian immigration.

Some Croats also came about this time, but their number did not increase rapidly until about 1900. The Serbians have come much more recently, probably all since 1910, and they are from the oppressed provinces of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, not from the kingdom of Serbia.

The Jugoslavs at the Beginning of the War.

At the beginning of the present war, some of the Jugoslavs in the United States, like many of the rest of us, failed to see all the issues clearly. Among them the habit of obedience to the Austro-Hungarian government was still strong. Austro-Hungarian agents in this country took every possible advantage of this fact. They endeavored to recruit and send men to the Austrian army, and when that was not possible, extorted as much money as possible for the Austrian cause. These agents published their own newspapers and carried on extensive propaganda. They threatened American Jugoslavs with procedure under the Austrian martial laws, and frequently put these threats into execution against families and properties in Austria. The Jugoslav in this country, desiring to espouse actively the cause of the allies, was obliged to do so with the knowledge that it might mean exile or death to his nearest of kin.

This unhappy condition developed the need for united action, and the first Yugoslav National Convention in the United States was called to meet in Chicago, in March, 1915. The movement once launched, other meetings were held over the country, and means of self-protection and of self-expression were widely discussed. A second convention held in Pittsburg in November, 1916, found sentiment so much unified and crystallized that it was unanimously decided to place at the disposal of the United States all the resources of the Jugoslavs in this country, and a Yugoslav National Council was formed. At its head is an executive committee of ten men, Dr. A. Biankini, of Chicago, being president. The acting director is the Rev. Niko Grskovic, who had long been pastor of St. Paul's Croatian church in Cleveland, and who resigned the duties of the parish to devote himself entirely to the national cause. Dr. F. J. Kern, of Cleveland, is also a member of this executive committee. It is needless to state that each of these men has a price upon his head in Austria-Hungary.

Jugoslav National Council.

The following program was adopted at the Pittsburg convention as the program of the Yugoslav National Council:

1. To organize all the Southern Slavs in the United States, removing them from the influence of foreign, especially Austro-German agents; to endeavor to protect those who are loyal, regardless whether they are citizens of this country, or had as yet no opportunity to become such, and to keep under surveillance those who are suspicious; acting in this respect in accordance with instructions and wishes of the Federal authorities.
2. To prepare a census of all Southern Slavs in the United States, according to their ages, occupations and qualifications, and to place it at the disposal of the Federal authorities.
3. To carry out the recruiting of the Southern Slavs, on behalf of the industrial and military preparedness of the United States, and through the gymnastical Sokol organizations to bring together and train legions of volunteers, and prepare them to join the American army.
4. To support the American Red Cross; to aid and help its countrymen, the war victims and in general, the struggle for the liberty of the people.
5. To conduct an active propaganda for the enlightenment of the American public and authoritative factors in regard to true conditions, circumstances and aspirations of the Southern Slavs, and thereby to contribute to the realization of the high and lofty principles of this country and its President, being fully convinced that these principles will be applied also to the people of our race in Europe.

Jugoslavs in the United States Army.

As a consequence of the effective work of the Council, fear of Austrian retaliation became a nightmare of the past, and when the United States officially entered the war, her citizens of Yugoslav origin boldly rallied to the banner of freedom. It will be recalled that at first we declared war only upon Germany, and many men who were technically subjects of Austria-Hungary enlisted in our armies. Then when a declaration of war was made against Austria-Hungary, these men became technically "enemy aliens," and as such were offered their discharge from the service. There were many such men at Camp Sherman, men who were subjects of Austria-Hungary, and who did not even speak the English language, who yet at meetings addressed in



REV. NIKO GRSKOVIC
Jugoslav National Council



PAUL SCHNELLER
President Slovenian National Alliance

their own languages, all expressed their devotion to the cause of freedom, and their desire to continue in the United States service.

It would be difficult to express the sentiments of these men more beautifully than in the following translation of a letter written in Slovenian by a young soldier to his brother in Cleveland:

Dear Brother: I received the civil clothes sent me from Cleveland; and at the same time a thought occurred to me which never left me—that I should feel ashamed to leave the army and go back to civil life. Indeed, how I love my young, healthy life: how I long to be free again, going on my own ways, without hearing the command of another. But, alas, am I justified to think of my own liberty and happy life, when the moment is here that calls on every young man to bring liberty to others? Away, you selfish thoughts! On into the battle! I am a Slovene myself, and my fathers and grandfathers never had an opportunity to fight for liberty. Indeed, they fought for hundreds of years under the command of Hapsburgs to continue slavery and tyranny. Goodbye, my beloved young life, I shall not return to my happy home until the day has come when I can proudly see the liberated Jugoslavia in a liberated world. Then I shall return, conscious that I have done my bit. If I shall perish—I am afraid I will—let it be so; the only thing I am sorry about is that I don't possess hundreds of lives, giving them all for liberty.

Dear brother, the suit of clothes you sent me, I sold today for thirty dollars, to a man who thinks less than I do.

Happy, indeed, is the Jugoslavia who can claim such young men as her children, and happy, too, is the United States whose superior opportunities have drawn them hither.

There are now in Cleveland about 40,000 Jugoslavs, including 25,000 to 30,000 Slovenians and 10,000 to 12,000 Croatians, and 1,000 Serbians. Most of them reside along St. Clair Avenue, and in Collinwood, with some exceptions to be noted later.

The Slovenians

THE Slovenians were the first of the Jugoslavs to come to Cleveland, and it is hard to imagine why they are so persistently called "Griners". This word has no standing and no meaning, except as local usage has established one. It may be a corruption of *Krajner*, the German name for the inhabitants of Carniola. Even then it cannot apply to the Slovenians from other provinces, such as Carinthia, Istria, Gorizia, Styria and Dalmatia.

Location in Cleveland.

There are now in Cleveland between 25,000 and 30,000 people of this race, most of them from Carniola. Their principal location is along St. Clair Avenue, where they live all the way from East 30th to East 78th Streets, with probably the greater number east of East 55th Street. A considerable number live in Collinwood, and some in Nottingham, while the oldest, though not the largest settlement is between Union Avenue and Aetna Road, on East 80th, 81st and 82nd Streets. There are about thirty families in Brooklyn where the men work in the brickyards, while the ore docks in Randall, and the factories in Bedford have drawn perhaps an equal number from the city. A group resident on East 14th Street, near Lakeside Avenue, are from a part of Hungary adjacent to the province of Styria.

The history of the development of the Slovenian population of Cleveland is like that of most immigrant colonies. First some bold spirits came to spy out the land; when they had found it good, they so reported, and others followed them. Then the families began to be sent for, and homes took the place of boarding houses.

The First Slovenians.

John Pintar was the first Cleveland Slovenian. He came first in 1879, stayed five months, and returned to Carniola. After four years, the *wanderlust* seized him again, and he made his second trip to America. He joined the Slovenian agricultural colony in Ely, Minnesota, for seven months, then came again to Cleveland. A few months of prosperity were followed by a dull season, when he was laid off, and was unable to find work. Always seeking for employment, he started westward, and walked all the way from Cleveland to Pueblo, Colorado. Conditions were no better there than here, so in utter sickness of heart, he turned around and walked back. He accomplished the return trip in sixty-six days, having only such lodging and food as he could beg along the way. Now, after a life which seems to have been persistently unlucky, he is passing his last days in the Warrensville Infirmary.

The next Slovenian to come to Cleveland was Joseph Turk, who came about 1883, and settled on Marble Avenue, near the steel mills. He was soon followed by other men, and his daughter Gertrude, now Mrs. Skebe, of 966 Ivanhoe Road, who joined him in 1885, was the first Slovenian woman in Cleveland. She came over with a party from their neighborhood, and reports that there were thirteen or fourteen Slovenian men here at that time.

Of the Slovenians now in the city, it is estimated that one-third have been here more than fifteen years, one-third between ten and fifteen years, and one-third only five or six years.



LOUIS J. PIRC
Editor *Cleveland'ska Amerika*



FRANK HUDOVERNIK
Secretary Slovenian National Alliance

Occupations in Cleveland.

It will be noted that their various residence districts are all located in the neighborhood of the plants of the American Steel and Wire Company, and similar industries. In Collinwood many of them are employed in the Lake Shore shops; they are found in all the railroad roundhouses, and brick making is another industry in which they furnish much of the labor.

This necessity for beginning life here as common laborers comes from the total lack of opportunity in their native land. The Slovenians seem, however, to have a natural aptitude for business, and the number of merchants among them is greater than among any other race whose coming is equally recent. There are about four hundred business men, whose stores include, besides the usual grocery stores and saloons, dry goods stores, furniture stores, jewelry stores and shoe stores. An unusual number of young men are employed in the various Cleveland banks.

Co-Operative Store.

An interesting business development is the co-operative store at 667 East 152nd Street, managed by the Slovenian Co-operative Company (*Slovenska Zadružna Zveza*). This organization has 125 members, who banded together to reduce the high price of groceries in Collinwood. The president of the society is Frank Komidar, 12510 Saranac Road, who considers that in the five years of its existence, their store has had an appreciable influence upon grocery prices in that part of the city.

Churches.

There are three Slovenian Roman Catholic Churches in Cleveland; the largest of which is St. Vitus, on Norwood Road, at the corner of Glass Avenue.

St. Vitus parish was founded in 1893, and now numbers fully 1,500 families. The school building, which was recently constructed, is of the most approved modern type, and houses the second largest parochial school in the diocese, last year's registration having been 1,459. The teachers are sisters of Notre Dame. The pastor is Rev. B. J. Ponikvar, who is assisted by Rev. Anthony Bombach. St. Vitus' choir maintains a secular organization as the singing society "Lira," whose concerts delight the music lover. The president of "Lira" is John Zulic, 1261 Norwood Road.

St. Lawrence parish was organized Dec. 11, 1901, and the church built at 3540 East 81st Street. The church and school rooms are very much crowded, in spite of a new building, which houses part of the school, and more extensive buildings will be undertaken as soon as possible after the war. At present St. Lawrence parish has an excellent playground for the use of the children of the neighborhood, the equipment having been secured through the enterprise of the pastor, Rev. J. J. Oman.

The parish of St. Mary of the Assumption, with its church at 15519 Holmes Avenue, is the youngest of the Slovenian Churches, and sustained a great loss in the tragic death by accident, of its pastor, Rev. Paul Hribar, whose place has since been filled by Rev. Joseph Skur.

There are some protestant Slovenians, many of whom are connected with the First Slovenian Baptist Mission, at Glass Avenue and East 61st Street.

The Slovenian clergy are doing their part toward the Americanization of their people, and evening school classes have been held under the auspices of the Americanization Committee in the parochial schools of St. Vitus and St. Lawrence.

Citizenship.

Owing to lack of leadership and organization for the development of unified sentiment, many Slovenians had neglected to give the proper consideration to their status as citizens, and consequently found themselves at the beginning of the war, in a very awkward situation—in this country, but not of it. Most of these men hastened to take out first papers, and will, when the way is open, complete their citizenship in the country where they have long had all their interests, including the ownership of property.

Slovenians in Military Service.

There are more than 400 Cleveland young men of Slovenian parentage in the army and navy of the United States, and many others who were not American citizens have gone from Cleveland to the Yugoslav army on the Saloniki front. The Woman's Yugoslav Union of America (**Zveza jugoslovanskih zen V Ameriki**) is the Red Cross organization which ministers to the Yugoslav army. A shipment of comfort kits is now on its way from Cleveland to the New York headquarters.



Slovenian Singing Society Lira

Newspapers.

There are three Slovenian newspapers in Cleveland:

Enakopravnost—a daily published at 6418 St. Clair Avenue.

Clevelandska Amerika—tri-weekly, published at 6119 St. Clair Avenue.

Sloga—weekly, 6120 St. Clair Avenue.

Building and Loan Association.

The Slovenian Building & Loan Association, of which Paul Schneller is secretary, has offices at 6313 St. Clair Avenue. Its assets are \$75,000, and it is encouraging and assisting many Slovenians and other Yugoslavs in the purchase of property.

Fraternal Organizations.

The Slovenians, like the other Slavs, have many fraternal organizations, of which the oldest is the Carniolian Slovenian Catholic Union (**Krajsko Slovensko Katoliska Jednota**)—abbreviated as K. S. K. J.—which was organized in Joliet, Illinois, April 2, 1894, and now has 17,000 members, capital to the amount of \$650,000, and has paid out \$1,376,135.32 in benefits. It publishes as its official organ "Glasilo K. S. K. J.," which claims to be the largest Slovenian weekly in the United States, and is published at 1951 West 22nd place, Chicago.

The present officers of the society are Paul Schneller, 6313 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, president; Joseph Zalar, 1004 North Chicago Street, Joliet, Illinois, secretary.

The next society in point of age is the South Slavic Catholic Union (**Jugoslovsanska Katoliska Jednota**)—J. S. K. J.—with headquarters at Ely, Minnesota, where it was organized in 1898. Its capital is \$274,534.90, of which \$35,000 is invested in Liberty Bonds. Its present membership is 7,940, and it has paid out \$1,300,000 in sickness, accident and death benefits.

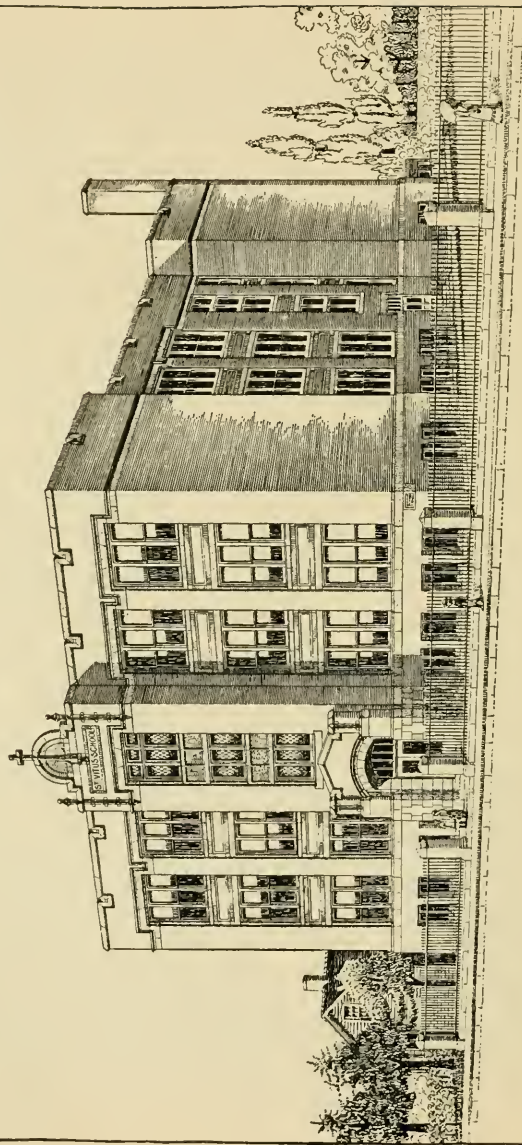
Mihael Rovansek, Conemaugh, Pennsylvania, is president; Joseph Pishler, secretary, and Rudolf Perdan, 6024 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, treasurer.

The Slovenic National Benefit Society (**Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota**)—S. N. P. J.—was organized in 1904, and has its headquarters at 2657-2659 South Lawndale Avenue, Chicago. Its capital is \$525,000; has paid out in benefits \$1,029,081. It has over 18,000 members and the officers are John Vogric, La Salle, Illinois, president; John Verderbar, secretary.

It has 342 branches, distributed as follows:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|--------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Pennsylvania..... | 99 | West Virginia..... | 7 | Arizona..... | 1 |
| Illinois..... | 48 | Wisconsin..... | 7 | California..... | 1 |
| Ohio..... | 45 | Utah..... | 6 | Idaho..... | 1 |
| Minnesota..... | 25 | Washington..... | 6 | Kentucky..... | 1 |
| Kansas..... | 16 | Iowa..... | 4 | Missouri..... | 1 |
| Colorado..... | 14 | New Mexico..... | 4 | New Jersey..... | 1 |
| Michigan..... | 11 | New York..... | 4 | Oregon..... | 1 |
| Montana..... | 11 | Oklahoma..... | 4 | Texas..... | 1 |
| Indiana..... | 10 | Arkansas..... | 3 | Canada..... | 1 |
| Wyoming..... | 9 | | | | |

ST. VITUS SCHOOL.
 CLEVELAND, OHIO.
 +
 WILLIAM C. JANSEN,
 ARCHITECT.



St. Vitus School

THE JUGOSLAVS OF CLEVELAND

In Ohio there are branches in the following places:

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Akron | East Palestine | Lowellville | Randall |
| Barberton | Euclid | Maynard | Rittman |
| Bellaire | Fairport | Neffs | Struthers |
| Blaine | Girard | Newark | Warren |
| Canton | Glencoe | Piney Fork | West Park |
| Cleveland | Garrettsville | Power Point | Wheeling Creek |
| Conneaut | Lorain | Ramsay | |

Its official organ is the daily "Prosveta," published at the headquarters in Chicago.

The Slovenic-Croatian Union of the United States and Canada (**Slovenska-Hrvatska Zveza V Zdruzenih Drzavah Ameriskih in Canadi**) was founded January 1, 1903, in Calumet, Michigan, where it has its headquarters in the Borgo block on Fifth Street. The president is Frank Gregorich, Dodgeville, Mich.; the secretary Anton Geshel, Calumet.

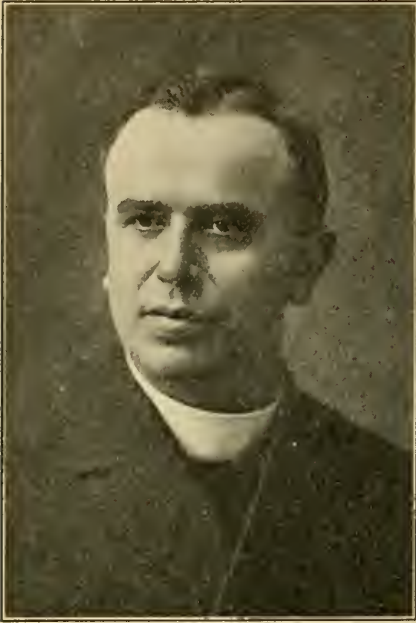
The Slovenian Workingmen's Benefit Union (**Slovenska Delavska Podporna Zveza**) was founded August 16, 1908, in Johnstown, Pa., and has as its present officers: president, Ivan Prostor, 1098 Norwood Road, Cleveland; secretary, Blaz Novak, 634 Main Street, Johnstown, Pa.; treasurer, Josip Zele, 6502 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland.

Its assets on June 30, 1918, were \$158,096.93, of which \$45,000 is invested in Liberty Bonds; and it has paid out in benefits \$1,000,000. It has 146 branches, which includes 7,299 adult members and 4,500 junior members. In Cleveland there are five branches with a total of 605 members.

The Slovenian Mutual Benefit Association (**Slovenska Dobrodelna Zveza**) is a Cleveland organization, whose charter permits extension of its activities throughout the state. It was organized in November, 1910, and has its headquarters at 1052 East 62nd Street, where Frank Hudovernik is the efficient secretary. The president is Primož Kogoj, 6518 Edna Avenue. In the eight and one-half years of its existence, this society has handled \$158,115.44 in dues from its eighteen Cleveland branches. It has paid out \$35,100 in death benefits, and \$40,278.88 in sick benefits, to a total of 1,950 beneficiaries, and it now has as capital \$75,011.45, of which \$10,000 is invested in Liberty Bonds, and \$700 in War Savings Stamps. The present membership is 1,926, including both men and women.

Slovenian National Home.

To provide a common home for the lodges of all these various organizations, an association incorporated as The Slovenian National Home Association (**Slovenska Narodna Dom**), recently purchased property worth \$50,000 at 6409 St. Clair Avenue, and has remodeled the building into very desirable quarters, which will be formally opened on November 10th.



REV. B. J. PONIKVAR
St. Vitus Church



REV. J. J. OMAN
St. Lawrence Church

Political Organizations.

There are two political organizations, of nation wide extent—the Slovenian Republican Alliance (**Slovensko Republicansko v Zdruzenje**), and the Slovenian National Alliance (**Slovenska Narodna Zveza**). The latter society has as its president Paul Schneller, 6313 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland; secretary, Frank Hudovernik, 1052 East 62nd Street, and it takes a prominent part in the work of the Yugoslav National Council.

Musical Organizations.

An interesting organization is the Union of Yugoslav Singing Societies. (**Zveza jugoslavonskih pevskih drustev**), whose president is Primoz Kogoj, 6518 Edna Avenue. It includes sixteen singing societies from various cities, and gives an extended musical program at its annual meeting. The Cleveland societies connected with it are the Slovenian "Edinost" and "Zvon" and the Croatian "Prosvjeta."

The Croatians

THE first Croatians to settle in Cleveland apparently came here about 1887 and 1888. Residents who came in 1890 report that a considerable number were already here. Among the early settlers were John Popovic, Peter Kekic, Paul Kckic and John Rardie. The experience of Frank Kovacic, is typical of these. Coming to America early in 1889, Mr. Kovacic went first to the mines of Pennsylvania, where he worked eight months. He preferred, however, to "live his life in the world," so with increased knowledge of American opportunities, he came to Cleveland in November, 1889. His first job was on the streets of Cleveland, digging sewers. Then he got a job in the Lake Erie Iron Works, where he worked under the same boss for thirteen years, after which he went into business as a saloon keeper.

At present there are probably about 10,000 Croatians in the city, and they have come hither from the various provinces of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The majority are from Croatia itself, but there is a considerable number from Dalmatia, a smaller number from Slavonia, and a few from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Location in Cleveland.

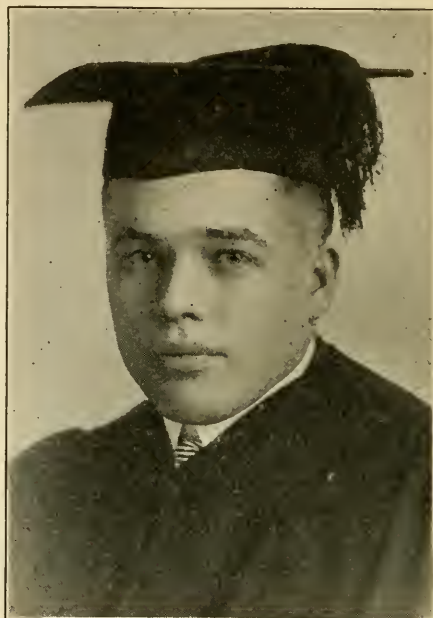
Their principal residence district is along St. Clair Avenue, and its intersecting streets from about East 25th Street to East 70th Street. This whole colony lies north of Superior Avenue.

The Croatians from Dalmatia have a settlement of their own between Scovill Avenue and Woodland Avenue, East 26th Street and East 31st Street, and an organization, the Dalmatian Benevolent Society. This tendency to settle in groups, while often condemned by unthinking persons, is one of the most natural things in the world. Who does not wish to have as neighbors his own personal friends and people whose interests are sufficiently like his own to furnish topics for conversation and grounds for friendly intercourse? So the Croatian, coming to Cleveland, seeks a home next to some old friend, or, failing that, in the neighborhood of people of his own race, each individual of whom becomes to him a brother in exile.

As they become acquainted with the country, the language and the city, they exercise a wider range of choice in the selection of a home; and greater independence in the search for employment. This results in a scattering through the city. There are now a considerable number of Croatians on the West Side, particularly along Franklin Avenue, from West 14th Street to West 25th Street; some in West Park, where they have bought land; many in Collinwood; about ten families in Randall, where the men work at the ore docks; and about one hundred families scattered through the South End.



M. S. CERREZIN
Croatian Attorney



JOHN L. MIBELICH
Slovenian Attorney

Occupations.

Coming from a country where agriculture and a few hand trades are the only occupations, getting their first sight of a factory upon their introduction to work in America, these Croats have inevitably had to begin life in this country as unskilled laborers. Having real natural ability and those qualities of character which go to make dependable workers, some of them have risen to be foremen, while others have mastered such trades as electric welding, other electric work, and carpentry. Many are employed in the various plants of the American Steel and Wire Company, in the Van Dorn Iron Works, the Otis Steel Company, in the Lake Shore Shops at Collinwood, and in the various railroad roundhouses. Many of the girls and women are now responding to war demands by taking up shop work, in such plants as the National Screw & Tack Company.

At home these Croats were poor; perhaps 90% came to America to earn money to pay debts and to establish better conditions for themselves at home; but, as with every other immigrant race, they were drawn from their first intention by the irresistible appeal of American political liberty and economic freedom. Within the last five years the tendency to buy property has increased with great rapidity, and in some neighborhoods the number of property owners is now estimated as high as 50%. A few have returned to agricultural life, and it seems that with proper encouragement, this movement may be greatly accelerated. This return to the land has been greatest in the direction of West Park.

Anxiety Regarding Families in Europe.

At least 500 men and probably very many more than that, had not yet been able to send for their families when the war broke out. Consequently they have been now for almost four years absolutely without news of those dearest to them. As Croatia is a rich agricultural country, it is hoped that country people may be able to feed themselves; on the other hand, there is grave fear that the Austrian government may have requisitioned everything. It is known that all the horses were taken for military purposes, as early as the fall of 1914, so there is serious doubt as to the extent of the crops which it has been possible to raise since then. Therefore everyone of these men lives with the haunting fear that his family may be starving or dead, while he here is unable to help them.

Organizations.

The first Croatian organization in Cleveland was the St. Nicholas branch of the National Croatian Society, organized in 1895. There are now ten branches of this society in the city.

Roman Catholic Church.

The next organization was that of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, initial steps toward which were taken in 1900, the organization completed in 1902, and the church built on East 40th Street, near St. Clair Avenue, in 1903. The first pastor of St. Paul's Church did not like America, and returned to Europe. For thirteen years, from 1904 to 1917, this church was under the charge of Rev. Don Niko Grskovic, who saw its congregation grow to five or six thousand. Father Grskovic was at all times greatly interested in the political fate of his country and his compatriots, and consequently a worker for South Slav freedom and unity. He is largely responsible for the present development of the South Slav movement in this country, and in December, 1917, he resigned his parochial duties to devote himself entirely to the national cause. He was succeeded in the parish by the Rev. M. G. Domladovac, the present pastor.

Greek Catholic Church.

Most Croatians are Roman Catholics; but there are in Croatia sixty-five Greek Catholic parishes. Cleveland Croatians included emigrants from these parishes in sufficient numbers so that they formed a Greek Catholic Church organization, St. Nicholas Church, in the year 1902.

These Greek Catholics occupy a very interesting middle place between the Roman Catholics and the Greek Orthodox. They are in communion with Rome, since they acknowledge the supremacy of the Pope, and accept the *filioque* clause in the creed. In most other respects they follow the practices of the Eastern Church, including the communion in both kinds to the laity and the married clergy.

In this country they have their own ecclesiastical organization, but are very much handicapped by lack of clergy. This lack caused a suspension of activity on the part of St. Nicholas church for ten years, from 1903 to 1913; then a plea to the clergy of Croatia resulted in a general deliberation there on the subject, and the Rev. Milan Hranilovic volunteered as the needed missionary to America. He is the only Croatian Greek Catholic priest in America, and as the Greek Catholics of every race in this country are very



REV. M. G. DOMLADOVAC
St. Paul's Church



REV. MILAN HRANILOVIC
St. Nicholas Church

short of clergy, Father Hranilovic is frequently called upon to assist pastorless parishes of Greek Catholic Slovaks, Ruthenians, and Ukrainians.

The service of the Greek Catholic Church is very beautiful. It is truly congregational in character, being antiphonal throughout. The congregation, having been trained from childhood to their part in the service, respond with such completeness that one does not even notice the lack of musical instruments. The vestments of the clergy are also distinctive and beautiful, and the bursting into light of the canopy over the altar gives an indescribable exaltation.

The visitor can only feel glad that these people who work so hard, often in such unlovely surroundings, have so much beauty in their religious life.

Father Hranilovic is an accomplished musician, plays twenty-seven musical instruments, and trains among the young people of his congregation two choral groups and two orchestras.

Croatian Musical Instruments.

The national musical instrument of the Croatians is a distinctive one, the *tamburica*, something like the harp; an orchestra is made up of various sizes of this instrument, from a small violin size, to one corresponding to the bass viol.

It is significant of the general neglect which these submerged provinces have experienced on the part of the rest of Europe, that in such work as Grove's "Musical Dictionary," which gives the instruments of obscure South Sea Islands, and Central Africa, no mention is made of the characteristic instruments of this highly musical European race.

Illustrations of the Croatian musical instruments are therefore introduced in this publication for apparently the first time to the American public. These illustrations are from the catalog of J. M. Dobranic Co., 3830 St. Clair Avenue. Mr. Dobranic, after several years of work in Europe, began the manufacture of these instruments in Cleveland, in 1910, and his workmanship is known to his fellow countrymen all over the world. Recently 500 instruments were shipped by him to Chile, and he has a photograph of an orchestra using these Cleveland-made instruments in Puntas Arenas, Chile, an extreme southern point.

Fraternal Organizations.

The principal Croatian fraternal society is the National Croatian Society (*Narodna Hrvatska Zajednica*), which has its headquarters at 1012 Peralta St., N. S. Pittsburg, Pa. It has \$949,964.86 capital, \$300,000 of which is invested in Liberty Bonds, has paid benefits to the amount of more than \$6,000,000, and it publishes a weekly newspaper, "*Zajednicar*."

Its membership is 42,764, divided among 428 branches, whose distribution is as follows:

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----------------|----|------------------|---|------------------|---|
| Pennsylvania..... | 144 | Iowa | 11 | New Mexico | 5 | Texas | 2 |
| Ohio..... | 30 | California..... | 10 | New Jersey | 5 | Nevada..... | 2 |
| Colorado..... | 18 | New York | 10 | Wisconsin..... | 4 | Tennessee..... | 1 |
| West Virginia ... | 15 | Indiana..... | 9 | Wyoming | 3 | Oregon | 1 |
| Minnesota | 16 | Missouri..... | 8 | Nebraska | 2 | Idaho | 1 |
| Michigan | 19 | Utah | 7 | South Dakota ... | 2 | Alaska..... | 1 |
| Washington..... | 11 | Kansas..... | 6 | Connecticut..... | 2 | British Columbia | 3 |
| Montana | 12 | Arizona..... | 5 | | | | |

The distribution of Croats in Ohio is indicated by the following list of places having branches of this organization:

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Akron | Cleveland | Lorain | Struthers |
| Aultman | Columbus | Lowellville | Yorkville |
| Brewster | Dayton | Mingo Junction | Youngstown |
| Canton | East Youngstown | South Lorain | |

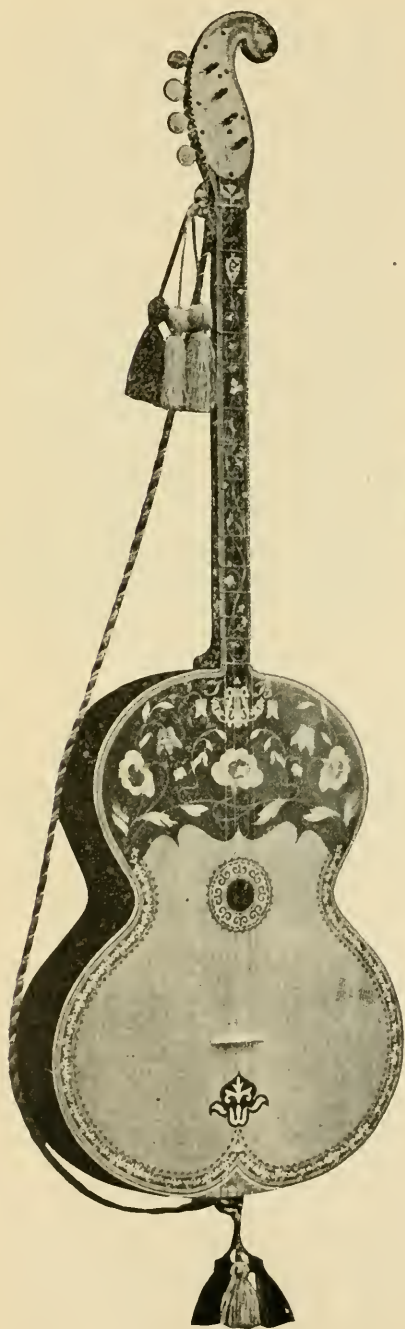
There is no distinctive Croatian newspaper in Cleveland. *Radnicka Borba*, published at 3413 St. Clair Avenue, by the South Slavic Socialist Labor Party Federation, is printed partly in Croatian, and partly in Serbian. The editors claim to be internationalists, and as such refuse to call themselves either Croatian or Serbian.

Personal Characteristics.

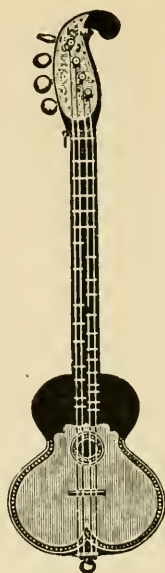
Personally and individually, the Croats of Cleveland present the appearance of a very desirable race of people. Of excellent physique, they have the broad forehead, the well-placed eyes, and the general cast of countenance which we associate with our most intelligent types. A Croatian in conversation displays so clearly, both in his manner of speaking and in the play of expression upon his countenance, an alert mind and a keen intelligence, that it is impossible to watch him without respect, even though one does not understand his language.

Political Organizations.

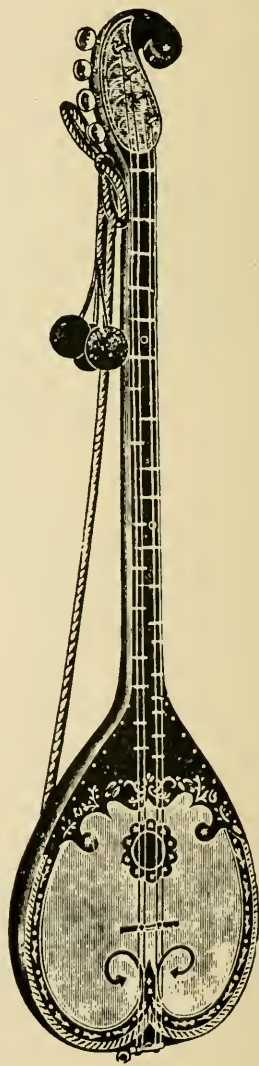
Politically the Croats are organized into the Croatian Alliance (*Hrvatski Savez*), whose officers are: president, Rev. Niko Grskovic, 932 Southern Building, Washington, D. C.; secretary, Kosto Unkovic, 117 Blackwell Building, Pittsburg, Pa.; treasurer, Dr. Ante Biankini, 3207 Indiana Avenue, Chicago. This alliance works in harmony with the Yugoslav National Council.



BUGARIJA



BISERNICA



BRAC

The Serbians

THE Serbians do not constitute a large part of Cleveland's population at present. Before the war there were perhaps two thousand here. Most of them were quite recent immigrants, therefore they included a large proportion of men without families.

Some of these have gone to other cities to work, particularly to Detroit and to Akron, Ohio, but the majority have gone into military service. The Serbian Sokol (gymnastic training society) members were from the very beginning eager to make their training of service, and their organization was consequently broken up through the enlistment of its members. All Serbian men seem to have felt the call to arms as a call especially to them, and most of them who were free to do so, have gone into some one of the allied armies. Many from Cleveland are in the United States army; others are in the Jugoslav army on the Saloniki front, now happily in Serbia.

A mobilization camp has been maintained at Sussex, N. B., by the Serbian National Defense League, and to this men have been sent who, because of their technical standing as subjects of Austria-Hungary, were not eligible for service in the United States army. Over three hundred men have been sent there through the Cleveland organization.

Over \$6,000 has been contributed by Cleveland Serbs to the support of the national cause and to Serbian Relief work, besides their subscriptions as Americans to Liberty Bonds, War Savings Stamps, War chest, and other causes.

The Serbians now in the city impress one as a very intelligent and desirable class of people, and they include, in proportion to their numbers, a considerable number of business men.

Numerous efforts have been made to establish a church, the Serbians being Greek Orthodox in religion. So far the enterprise has not been very successful, owing in part no doubt to the somewhat unsettled nature of the colony, and more to the difficulty of securing clergy. The present pastor is Rev. Nikodem Stoyakovich, 1374 East 66th Street, who served in the Serbian army, shared in the Great Retreat, was wounded, eventually got to France, and thence came to Cleveland. The church, known as St. Sava's church, is on East 34th St. near St. Clair Avenue.

There are three fraternal organizations having wide distributions among the Serbs. The oldest is "Srbobran" having headquarters at 12th and Carson Streets, Pittsburg.

Next is "Sloga," of which Prof. M. I. Pupin of Columbia University is president. The third is "Sloboda."



Serbian Sokol

The political organization of the Serbs in America is "The Serbian National Defense League of America." Its headquarters are at 441 West 22nd Street, New York, and its president is Prof. Milos Trivunac of the University of Belgrade. The secretary is Nikola Knezevic, 12th and Carson Streets, Pittsburg. The League is a supporter of the Yugoslav National Council, and directs its energies toward the establishment of a free Yugoslavia, which shall include in one state the three peoples, Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

The latest war news indicates that this state is already an accomplished fact, and it will be a happy thing if these representatives who have had the broadest and best opportunities for knowledge of American governmental ideals, may assist in establishing in their home land a true democratic state.

Jugoslav Newspapers published in the United States:

CROATIAN.

Daily

Jugoslovenski Svijet.....461 8th Ave., New York

Weekly

Hrvatska.....313 6th Ave., Calumet, Mich.

Hrvatski Glasnik..... 1420 East Ohio St., Pittsburg

Hrvatski Rodoljub..... Pittsburg

Jugoslovenska Zastava.....Chicago

Jugoslovenski Jadran 110 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, Cal.

Oslobodjenje.....118 East Market St., Los Angeles, Cal.

Zajednicar..... 1012 Peralta St., Pittsburg

Semi-Monthly

Ilustrovani List.....New York

Monthly

Pomladak..... Pittsburg

Sokol.....59 West St. John St., San Jose, Cal.

CROATIAN-SERBIAN.

Weekly

Radnicka Borba.....3413 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland

Radnicka Obrana.....Duluth, Minn.

SERBIAN

Daily

Americanski Srbobran..... 12th and Carson Sts., Pittsburg

Srpski Dnevnik.....417 Lafayette St., New York

Srbobran.....443 West 22nd St., New York

Weekly

Balkanski Svijet.....318 South Canal St., Chicago

Srpski Glasnik.....1034 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Cal.

Srpska Straza.....Box 2, Branch D, New York

Ujedinjeno Srpstvo.....318 South Canal St., Chicago

Vrac.....Akron, Ohio

Semi-monthly

Srpska Zaduzbina.....Box 233, Chicago, Ill.

Monthly

Jugoslavia.....Chicago, Ill.

THE JUGOSLAVS OF CLEVELAND

SLOVENIAN.

Daily

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Enakopravnost..... | 6418 St. Clair, Ave., Cleveland |
| Glas Naroda..... | 82 Cortlandt St., New York |
| Prosveta..... | 2657 South Lawndale St., Chicago, Ill. |

Tri-weekly

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Clevelandska Amerika..... | 6119 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|

Semi-weekly

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Amerikanski Slovenec..... | 1006 N. Chicago St., Chicago, Ill. |
| Glas Svobode..... | 2656 South Crawford Ave., Chicago, Ill. |

Weekly

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Glasilo K. S. K. J..... | 1952 West 22nd Place, Chicago, Ill. |
| Proletarec..... | 4008 West 31st St., Chicago, Ill. |
| Sloga..... | 6120 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland |
| Slovenija..... | 383 First Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. |
| Slovenske Novice..... | 707 7th Ave., Calumet, Mich. |

Semi-monthly

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ave Maria..... | 62 St. Mark's Place, New York |
| Slovenski Ilustrovani List..... | 5227 Butler St., Pittsburg |

Monthly

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Cas..... | 2711 South Millard Ave., Chicago, Ill. |
| Slovenska Druzina..... | 383 First Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. |

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